

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 /209 W
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R 191956Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5697

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UK, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: UK PRESS COVERAGE OF THE HEATH-POMPIDOU MEETING

1. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN "THE TIMES" AND THE
"FINANCIAL TIMES" OF NOVEMBER 19, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE
MEETING BETWEEN HEATH AND POMPIDOU AT CHEQUERS ON
NOVEMBER 16-17 COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER.

2. THE TWO LEADERS WERE IN CLOSE AGREEMENT ABOUT THE
FORM OF THE DECEMBER EC SUMMIT. POMPIDOU TOLD HEATH
THAT FRANCE WOULD BE WILLING TO BACK A "REASONABLE" EC
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REGIONAL POLICY NEXT YEAR, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE

FIRST STAGE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION IS INCOMPLETE. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT ALSO ACCEPTED THAT THE UK CANNOT AGREE TO REFIX THE STERLING PARITY AND JOIN THE "SNAKE" AT THIS TIME. AMONG THE OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THE MIDDLE EAST AND ENERGY SUPPLIES. THE FORMAL SIGNING ON AN AGREEMENT ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL WAS CONSIDERED AN APPROPRIATE OUTWARD SYMBOL OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING.

3. AN EDITORIAL IN THE FT WELCOMED THE ANGLO-FRENCH RAPPORT, BUT CAUTIONED THAT DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN PARTICULAR THE BRITISH ARE PRESSING FOR RADICAL ADAPTATIONS OF INTERNAL EC POLICIES, AND THEY VIEW THIS PROCESS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF DEVELOPING "THE NEW EUROPE". THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO RESIST THESE ADAPTATIONS. THERE ARE SIGNS, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH POLICY "IS SLOWLY ADAPTING ITSELF TO NEW REALITIES," THE FT SAID, AND "THE FUTURE IS SUFFICIENTLY FORBIDDING FOR EUROPE AS A WHOLE TO MAKE FOR MUTUAL SACRIFICES ALL AROUND."

4. COMMENTING ON THE FRENCH POSITION ON AN EC REGIONAL FUND, AN EDITORIAL IN "THE TIMES" SAID THAT "POMPIDOU EVIDENTLY UNDERSTANDS WELL ENOUGH THAT MR. HEATH NEEDS THE REGIONAL FUND IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE FIRST YEAR OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP HAS YIELDED SOME POSITIVE RESULTS, AND NOT JUST PRICE RISES OR BRUSSELS RED TAPE."

ANNENBERG

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